--- 1/20th Pound - “Series of 1886” - 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) ---

--- *recess printed* in BLACK on *diagonally watermarked* horizontally laid paper ---

--- perforated 12 - scanned at 200% scale - 21 x 28 mm ---

The standard weight for *small cigarettes* at this time was 2½ pounds per thousand. If 2½ pounds came to 1000 cigarettes, then 1/20th pound equalled (1000 ÷ 2.5) ÷ 20 = twenty cigarettes.

In 1885, the tax on “foreign leaf” cigarettes, in packages of 1/20th pound or more, was 20¢ per pound, while “domestic leaf” cigarettes were taxed at 5¢ per pound.

The catalogue lists **RC-88** as from 1886, and prior to **RC-96**. I feel that this is incorrect. **RC-96** is inscribed **“THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER”** (which logically follows from the “Series of 1880” Type III strip, which was inscribed with “**NOT MORE THAN 1/20 lb**”). I think that **RC-96** is from 1886, and was recorded by John McKay as *lithographed* under the **3rd BABN Contract** - see below:

John McKay records the ‘delivery’ of 25,000 *lithographed* copies of the “1-20, Black, Square, Cigarettes” under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). The collection ***does not include*** a *lithographed* copy of **RC-96(L)**.

John McKay records the ‘delivery’ of 120,000 *recess printed* copies of the “1-20, Black, Cigarettes” under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892).

The latter total of 120,000 stamps seems to include only **RC-88**. To date, no *lithographed* copy of the black 1/20th pound **RC-96** inscribed “**THREE POUNDS PER M OR UNDER**” has been found.

★**RC-88a** - 1/20th pound, perf 12, *recess printed* on *diagonally watermarked* horizontally laid paper

★**RC-88a CP** - 1/20th pound, perf 12, *recess printed* on *diagonally watermarked* horizontally laid paper, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

★ 1/20th pound, black, *recess printed* die proof on thin white proof paper

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★The collection contains a full perforated sheet of one hundred (10 x 10) of the *recess printed* **RC-88a** - the *diagonally watermarked* (crown / EXCISE / 1867) 1/20th pound on *horizontally laid* paper, with the imprint centred at top and bottom, ★ ★ plus two of the following imprint blocks of eight, ★ and a block of four.

★**RC-88a** - 1/20th pound, black, perf 12, *recess printed* on *diagonally watermarked*, horizontally laid paper
[scanned at 100% scale]

--- *recess printed* in BLACK on *unwatermarked* horizontally laid paper ---

★**RC-88** - 1/20th pound, black, perf 12, *recess printed* on *unwatermarked* horizontally laid wove - ★ two copies

This was the final use of *watermarked* paper, and / or *laid* paper by BABN.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1886-88 \ 1-20th black],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 6th 2013, JBH